

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 L-03 IO-10

NEA-10 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 CEQ-01

INT-05 DLOS-04 SMI-01 DODE-00 /076 W

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P R 240516Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6019

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON, TBIO, AS

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: CAIRNS SWITCHES
POSITION FOR 27TH SESSION

REF: (A) CANBERRA 3229; (B) CANBERRA 1700; (C) CANBERRA 1426

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND NEW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT CAIRNS
ISSUED SURPRISE STATEMENT JUNE 23 SAYING GOA POLICY IS TO WORK
FOR 10 YEAR MORATORIUM ON WHALING. PROPOSAL WHICH AUSTRALIA
HAD SPONSORED AND WHICH ALLOWED CERTAIN WHALE SPECIES TO BE
TAKEN WHILE TOTALLY PROTECTING OTHERS (I.E. "AUSTRALIAN
AMENDMENT") WAS ESSENTIALLY "SECOND CHOICE" IF IWC WOULD NOT
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SUPPORT MORATORIUM, STATEMENT CONTINUED. CAIRNS ALSO SAID HE HAD

DISCUSSED THIS WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER WRIEDT AND THAT AUST.
DELEGATE (BOLLEN) WILL "PUT THIS POINT OF VIEW" TO CURRENT IWC
MEETING IN LONDON.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: CAIRNS' BRIEF STATEMENT REPRESENTS
UNEXPECTED, LAST MINUTE SWITCH ON GOA POSITION (REFTELS). IT
ALSO INDICATES THAT, WHILE CAIRNS HAS LOST POWER AND PRESTIGE
SINCE HIS RECENT DISMISSAL AS TREASURER, AS DEPUTY PM HE HAS
BROUGHT INCREASED POLITICAL CLOUT TO ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO.
CAIRNS HAS LONG SUPPORTED CONSERVATIONIST CAUSES, AND HE IS NOW
IN POSITION TO USE HIS STILL CONSIDERABLE IF SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED
LABOR PARTY STANDING TO TOUGHEN GOA STANCE ON THISS ISSUES,
ABOUT WHICH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM CARES LITTLE. MEANWHILE,
CHANGE IN SIGNALS WILL PROBABLY BE AS SURPRISING TO AUST.
WHALING COMMISSIONER BOLLEN AS IT IS TO US AS WELL AS DISTASTEFUL
TO HIM PERSONALLY.
GREEN

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